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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-90 ADS-00 AF-10 ARA-11 EA-10 EUR-12 IO-14
SIG-03 MMO-01 MA-05 ACOA-12 AIO-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00
SMS-01 SES-01 SSM-03 SSN-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 /141 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RDLORTON
APPROVED BY NEA:HSCHAFER
NEA/PAB:RAPECK
INR/RNA/SOA:EVANHOLLEN
EUR/SOV:RPERITO
AF:JKOLKER
EA:SPAYNE
ARA:JOINGER
EUR:MTOKOLA

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FOI, EO or PA exemptions
() CLASSIFY as _____ TS authority to: _____
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TO ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS IMMEDIATE
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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 12065: GDS, 3/12/86 (SCHAFER, HOWARD B), NEA

TAGS: PINR, MILI, AF, UR

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT)

2. POSTS AT THEIR DISCRETION MAY DRAW FROM FOLLOWING
DEPARTMENT-PREPARED UPDATE ON THE SITUATION IN AFGHANISTAN

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FOR BRIEFING HOST GOVERNMENTS:

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3. AS EXPECTED, THE SOVIETS HAVE BEGUN MORE AGGRESSIVE OPERATIONS AGAINST RESISTANCE FORCES IN EASTERN AFGHANISTAN. FOLLOWING HEAVY FIGHTING THROUGHOUT JANUARY AND FEBRUARY IN BADAKHSHAN PROVINCE, SOVIET TROOPS HAVE NOW TURNED THEIR ATTENTION TO KONARHA, NANGARHAR, LAGHMAN, AND PAKTIA PROVINCES. A MAJOR OFFENSIVE INVOLVING A DIVISION-SIZE ARMORED COLUMN OF SOVIET AND AFGHAN PERSONNEL AND AIR ATTACKS ON VILLAGES BEGAN IN KONARHA IN LATE FEBRUARY. RECENTLY THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE FIGHTING IN THE JALALABAD AREA AS WELL.

4. FRESH PRESS REPORTS INDICATE PAKTIA COULD BE THE NEXT TARGET OF THE SOVIET ATTEMPT TO WREST THE MOMENTUM AWAY FROM THE NATIONALIST GROUPS AND TO BEGIN RECLAIMING AREAS WHICH HAVE BEEN OUTSIDE THE AFGHAN REGIME'S CONTROL FOR MANY MONTHS. THE SOVIETS ARE MAKING SOME PROGRESS BUT HAVE TAKEN HEAVY CASUALTIES IN THE FACE OF STIFF RESISTANCE. WE ANTICIPATE THAT SOVIET OFFENSIVE OPERATIONS IN THE PROVINCES, WITH SOME SUPPORT FROM REMAINING UNITS OF THE AFGHAN ARMY, WILL CONTINUE AT LEAST DURING THE NEXT MONTH OR TWO.

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